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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Port of Warnemunde

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DATE DISTR. *1 JUNE 53*

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CIA FOR IAC
DISSEMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3C OF NSC/D #7.

1. Approaches to Warnemunde: [redacted] in the Port of Warnemunde during the period 14 to 16 Mar 53. A pilot was picked up off the port and was used in entering the harbor and in the turn-around basin. No tugs were offered, requested, or necessary in berthing the vessel on the east bank of the River Warnow. [redacted] the length of the river from Rostock to Warnemunde to be 5.8 miles, or 11 kilometers; that it has an approximate depth of 24 feet; and that it runs muddy. [redacted] prior to World War II, the channel of the river had to be dredged periodically. [redacted] no evidence of dredging operations in progress during the instant voyage, nor did it seem that any had been done recently. Further, there was no activity on the river while [redacted] in the harbor. There were channel buoys in the river as guides. [redacted] [redacted] the river could accommodate vessels up to 6,000 or 7,000 tons.
2. Merchant Ship Activity: In the entrance to Warnemunde on the approach from the Baltic Sea I observed two ships of 18,000 to 19,000 tons. One of the ships was the "HANSE", a former Hamburg-American Line vessel that had been sunk during 1945. That ship was raised and in the process of being refitted. The location was 12°54'E and 54°10'N. No large tugs were observed in the harbor.
3. Geophysical Data: The surrounding terrain on the Baltic Sea was flat and level. Northeast of the river entrance is a beach, having a sandy and firm base with a gentle gradient inland from the river. It would be an excellent assault beach in an amphibious operation in my opinion. Shipping continues throughout the year in the Baltic Sea. However, [redacted] the port was frozen in during January 1953 [redacted]

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4. Port Facilities and Business: [redacted] population of Warnemunde [redacted] 15,000. It was a popular seashore resort prior to World War II. It still remains a resort but permission must be obtained from the Soviets by any person desirous of visiting the town. Warnemunde's primary shipping interest at the present is the importation of fertilizer. The port was intact [redacted] and there was no evidence of war damage. However, the houses in the town are becoming very run down and there was a noticeable lack of painting and repair work. The roads were in good repair and access to and from the berthing area was very good. [redacted] the roads to the waterfront and in the town to be 35 to 40 feet in width. The bridge over the Old Warnow River, which is located at 54°10.6'N, is of wood construction. [redacted] fertilizer was being trucked over the bridge [redacted].
- The fertilizer that the ship transported to Warnemunde was unloaded by dockside railroad cranes and was handled by DERUTRA (German Russian Transportation Society). This Society is Soviet controlled and administers the port and all imports and exports. The cranes were large and capable of handling five to eight tons and appeared to be very well maintained. [redacted] four railroad tracks leading to docksides and they were of the same gauge as those in Germany (Federal Republic). There is a shipyard at 54°10.4'N 12°05'E, but no activity was observed in the yard.
5. Port and Ship Personnel and Local Population: Six Soviet soldiers boarded the ship when it was berthed and effected a very thorough search of the vessel. Soviet soldiers were on duty on the pier, as well as one man and one woman East German Police on duty at the only entrance to the pier. The soldiers conducted themselves in a very courteous manner. The ship's complement was permitted shore liberty from 0600 to 2300 hours. Port labor forces are Germans. The local population is very poor in appearance and morale is at a low ebb. There is a distinguishable fear among the people for each other and an apparent distrust of one's neighbor. [redacted] conditions were very bad in Warnemunde. [redacted]

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